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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

P. O. Box 2604

Washington, D. C. 20013

MHQ-5108
1 October 1985

The Honorable Richard W. Boehm
American Ambassador
Nicosia, Cyprus

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

This is to bring you up to date on our thinking since my last letter of 25 February.

An extensive study of television broadcasting plans in West Europe was conducted by Ford Aerospace Company to help us determine the best possible site for the major satellite monitoring facility we are projecting. We have now reached the conclusion that such a site should be in West Europe itself, probably a NATO country, because of the conversion of West European broadcasters to "K" band television beaming. Thus the large antennas that we were originally thinking of installing in Cyprus--probably in conjunction with CYTA facilities--will instead be located in West Europe. This should make things a lot easier with regard to our Cyprus situation.

In lieu of the large satellite monitoring facility in Cyprus, we are now thinking of a small dish--probably 4.6 meters in diameter--which would be situated in conjunction with our new Nicosia operations building. This dish will monitor Arabsat--the Arab world satellite transmissions--with the signals being translated by our present Arab staff in Nicosia. You will recall that one of CYTA's concerns about FBIS establishing a monitoring dish on CYTA territory was the legal question of whether CYTA could allow monitoring of satellites on their territory without licensing agreements. I believe our decision solves this problem. A small dish on the FBIS grounds, as an annex of the embassy, makes the legal question moot. It's merely another FBIS antenna, on U.S. Government property.

As for "INTERNET," our projected wideband communications channel linking major bureaus with Washington, I don't see our Nicosia Bureau being on that system for quite a few years. If and when we want to be able to transmit over INTERNET from Cyprus, we could sign an agreement with CYTA. Inasmuch as telecommunications is the primary business of CYTA, there should not be any legal problems, nor complaints from the Government of Cyprus. [redacted] deputy director of FBIS, will be visiting Cyprus in the near future and can explain our "INTERNET" planning further.

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The Honorable Richard W. Boehm

25X1 It may be that you would want to notify the Cyprus Government informally that we will have a small dish antenna at the new FBIS site, stressing that it is simply an extension of our present antenna system. If you need further information on this I am certain [] can help.

In the meantime, in regard to the Government of Cyprus' tentative probes about increasing the amount of the U.S. honorarium paid to Cyprus, I suggest we wait for them to propose something seriously. It is not totally clear to me what they mean by their view that FBIS is being given increased support. If we get around to negotiating an increased honorarium, I would think we will want to specify a list of new things, perhaps a higher limit on the number of people, local security support, or other things that might occur to you.

Thank you for your letter of 19 March. If I can help further, please let me know.

25X1 Sincerely,

[]

Director

cc: Chief, Nicosia Bureau

JDChandlee:nl

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

P. O. Box 2604
Washington, D. C. 20013

25 February 1985

Ambassador Richard W. Boehm
United States Embassy
Nicosia, Cyprus

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you very much for taking the time to talk with us during my visit to Cyprus. I consider the improvement of our situations in Nicosia, Amman, and Tel Aviv among the highest FBIS priorities at this time.

We have carefully considered your view that "Site C" would be more advantageous from a security viewpoint than "Site D." However, in weighing all the pro's and con's we believe that the greater area provides an equally good advantage for "Site D" and will, in addition, provide operational and structural advantages. I am told that use of "Site C" would involve removal of the soft top soil and the building of retaining walls, and that equal security advantage can be gained by using protective walls around the greater area that comprises "Site D." "Site D" will also give us the possibility of auxiliary buildings and greater antenna area. We will construct secondary protective walls, berms, and earth mounds against the exterior walls. We will also have windows only on the interior, facing the atrium.

25X1 will coordinate closely with the Embassy as we plan our building and the new site. I feel confident the new installation will improve our situation from all points of view compared to our present location.

Please feel free to let me know of any concerns you may have as we progress.

Sincerely,

25X1
Director

cc: Chief, Nicosia Bureau, FBIS



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Nicosia

March 19, 1985

25X1



Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, D.C. 20013

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Dear 

Thank you for your letter of February 25, 1985. I appreciate your having reexamined the question of FBIS sites on the basis of our conversation during your recent visit here. Since the technical considerations seemed to weigh heavily in favor of Site D, I am happy to accept FBIS' decision. I look forward to seeing the architect's design whenever it is ready, and suggest it be made available to me at the earliest possible moment so that any suggestions the Embassy might have will not be unnecessarily disruptive.

Again, thanks for your letter. It was a pleasure to see you here, and I look forward to further personal contacts in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard W. Boehm".

Richard W. Boehm
Ambassador